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generating a frame comprises the step of generating a frame from said transmission data by using a plurality of  $T/N$  long portions in said frame, said transmission data having a transmission rate equal to or less than  $(N-1)/N$  times said predetermined transmission rate of said channel, where the  $N$  is an integer equal to or greater than three and the  $T$  is the length of a frame at said predetermined transmission rate.

6. CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) communications apparatus for transmitting transmission data through one or more channels between base stations and mobile stations, said apparatus comprising:

means for generating a frame including at least a part of said transmission data and a vacant portion when a transmission rate of said transmission data is lower than a predetermined rate, said vacant portion having no data to be transmitted;

means for performing a primary modulation of said frame to produce a primary modulation signal;

means for performing a secondary modulation of said primary modulation signal using a spreading code, to produce a secondary modulated wideband signal, said spreading code being different for each of said channels;

means for transmitting said wideband signal using a carrier,

wherein said means for generating a frame comprises means for time-compressing said transmission data by a factor of  $N$  at every time period  $T$  where  $N$  is an integer greater than one, and  $T$  is the length of a frame at said predetermined transmission rate when the transmission rate of said transmission data is  $1/N$  of said predetermined transmission rate, thereby providing said frame with said vacant portion.

7. The CDMA communications apparatus as claimed in claim 6, further comprising:

means for obtaining said primary modulation signal by receiving a wideband signal associated with one of said

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channels, and by despreading said wideband signal using a spreading code; and

means for restoring said transmission data by primarily demodulating said primary modulation signal obtained by said means for obtaining, and by time-expanding the demodulation output by a factor of the  $N$ .

8. The CDMA communications apparatus as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

means for measuring received power of a common control channel signal transmitted from a base station other than a base station with which the mobile station is communicating, by switching said spreading code during a time period corresponding to said vacant portion in said frame; and

means for deciding during communications a base station to which the communication is to be switched in accordance with said received power.

9. The CDMA communications apparatus as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

means for receiving common control channel data transmitted from at least one of said base station during a time period corresponding to said vacant portion of said frame by switching said spreading code; and

means for demodulating said common control channel data.

10. The CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) communications apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said means for generating a frame comprises means for generating a frame from said transmission data by using a plurality of  $T/N$  long portions in said frame, said transmission data having a transmission rate equal to or less than  $(N-1)/N$  times said predetermined transmission rate of said channel, where the  $N$  is an integer equal to or greater than three and the  $T$  is the length of a frame at said predetermined transmission rate.

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